

Washington, D.C. - Today, Congressman Costa responded to the initial list of this year's round of base closures.

Both Edwards Air Force Base and China Lake received a net gain according to the Department of Defense recommendations for base closures and realignments.

"I would like to thank Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and the Base Realignment and Closure Commission for understanding the crucial role that Edwards and China Lake currently play in maintaining America's security both home and abroad, and for recognizing the important role they will play in the future," stated Costa.

Over the last several months, Congressman Costa has contacted the Secretary of Defense and President Bush several times regarding the important work that these bases do for the Central Valley and the protection the bases provide for the West Coast.

"In addition to Edwards and China Lake protecting our homeland security, these bases also provide secondary benefits to the local economy. Both of these bases receiving a net gain this is great news for the Central Valley," Costa concluded.

Congressman Costa is available for comment. Please call the numbers below to set up an interview.

□

Kherstin Khan: 559-495-1620

Jack Hall: 559-930-7956

□

#